

DARIEN SOCIAL SERVICES

TIPS TO HELP YOU GET READY FOR SEVERE WEATHER AND WHEN THE ELECTRICITY GOES OFF

- Have one flashlight handy per household member and buy extra batteries.
- Keep a battery-operated radio on hand.
- Buy an inexpensive phone that you can plug directly into the phone jack in the wall. Portable phones work on electricity. They won't work when the electricity goes out. Your cell phone service may be out too.
- Keep important telephone numbers in a handy place, like the front of your refrigerator.
- If you use oxygen, have extra portable tanks. Anticipate your need.
- Keep a supply of food and drinks on hand that don't need refrigeration.
- Keep a supply of extra water on hand, three gals. per person, per day.
- Keep a manual can opener on hand.
- Keep refrigerators and freezers closed as much as possible. When the electricity comes back on make sure to check food closely. When in doubt, throw it away!
- Unplug sensitive electrical devices.
- Check all medications. Always have at least a week's worth on hand.
- Fill your car's gas tank.
- Have some extra cash on hand. ATMs work on electricity.
- Put away any outdoor furniture or plants that might blow away.
- Don't get too cold or too hot (depending on the time of year). Seek other shelter, if necessary.
- If you are uncomfortable staying alone during severe weather or a blackout, make arrangements to stay with family or friends. When severe weather is predicted make arrangements before the storm hits.

- Have a *Go Bag* ready with a change of clothes and personal necessities.
- As always, in an emergency call 911.